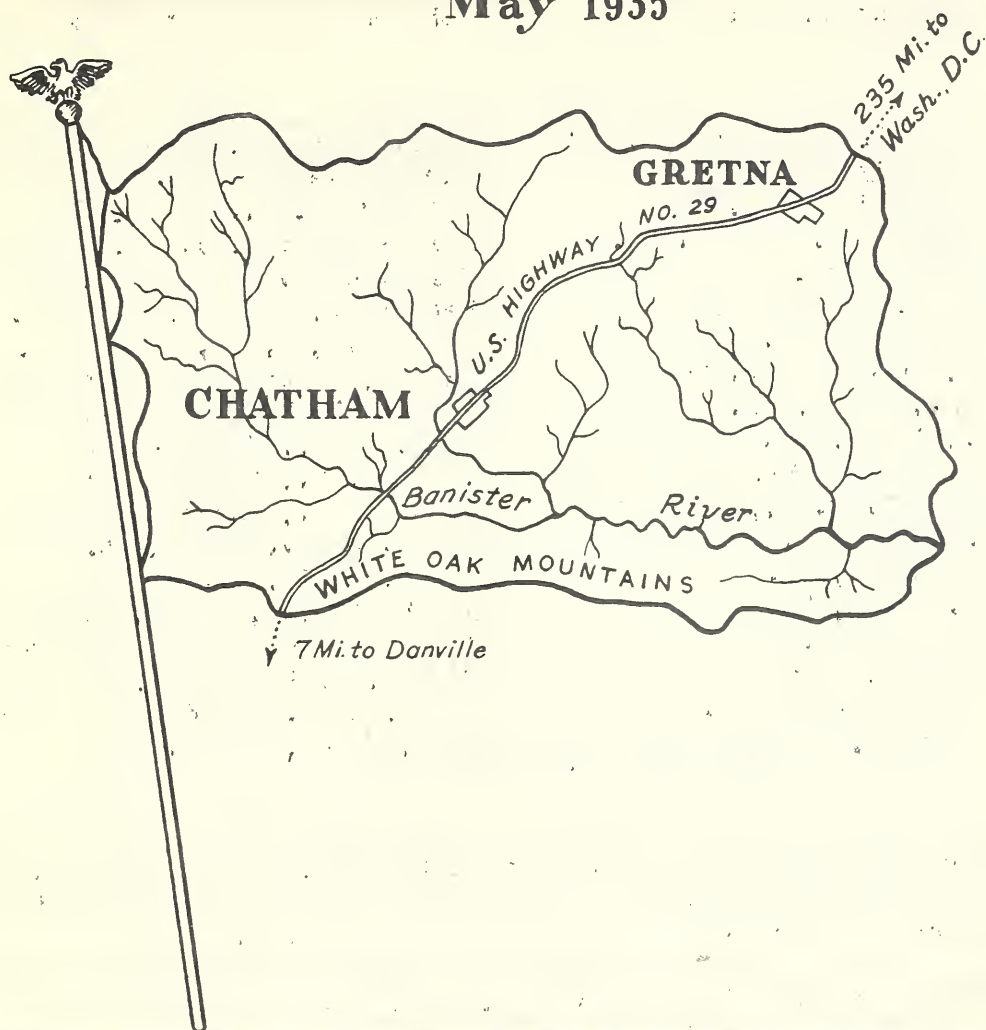


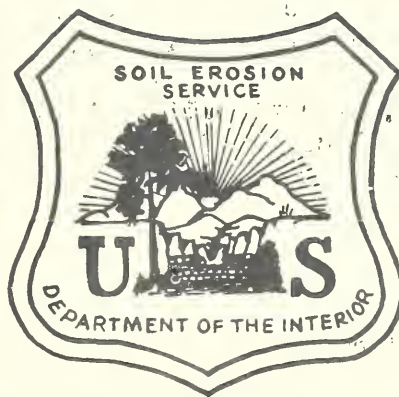
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May 1935



Banister River Banner



VOLUME 1

CHATHAM, VIRGINIA

NUMBER 10

SANDY RIVER AREA

The following named cooperators have signed temporary agreements in the Sandy River Area:

Ashworth, C. J., R. F. D. Danville, Va.	Hundley, Posey, Sandy River, Va.
Allen, J. W., Sandy River, Va.	Carter, Jessie, Sandy River, Va.
Adkins, B. N., Sandy River, Va.	Holland, J. N., Axton, Va.
Barker, Mrs. Maggie A., Axton, Va.	Hairfield, Mrs. J. W., Axton, Va.
Bell, G. L., Axton, Va.	Haley, C. P., Axton, Va.
Breedlove, J. W., Wenonda, Va.	Heffinger, J. D., Axton, Va.
Barker, C. G., Axton, Va.	McDaniels, C. H., Axton, Va.
Carter, B. K., Sandy River, Va.	Martin, Ralph, Axton, Va.
Carter, John A., Axton, Va.	Minter, O. L., Sandy River, Va.
Carter, N. P., Axton, Va.	Oaks, T. C., Cascade, Va.
Chatton, H. T., Axton, Va.	Oaks, J. H., Cascade, Va.
Emmerson, Laura, R. F. D., Danville, Va.	Oaks, H. W., Cascade, Va.
Earls, A. W., Axton, Va.	Payne, R. M., Axton, Va.
Fuller, E. L., Axton, Va.	Roach, E. C., Axton, Va.
Gilley, H. C., Axton, Va.	Roach, Lucian, Axton, Va.
Gregory, Walter, Axton, Va.	Smith, G. Jessie, Sandy River, Va.
Gray, G. D., Wenonda, Va.	Turner, J. F., Axton, Va.
Gray, J. D., Rt. 1, Danville, Va.	Terry, E. P., Sandy River, Va.
Haley, W. P., Axton, Va.	West, W. R., Axton, Va.
Winn, Geo. I., Axton, Va.	

At present there are 37 cooperators in the Sandy River Area. A total of 480 acres are to receive treatment, of these 243 acres are to be strip-cropped, 205 are to be seeded in pasture or hay mixture, and 410 are to be terraced.

The Soil Erosion Service is receiving invitations every day. These invitations are filed and your farm will be visited just as soon as the aerial maps have been completed. We have 15 other invitations from farmers on whose farms no work has been done.

Mr. Carl N. Priode, Agronomist, and Mr. W. E. Dickerson of the Engineering Department, say that the work in the Sandy River Area is progressing nicely. The terraces in most cases have been smoothed down and seeded as soon as they are checked. Seed beds have been well prepared, and the seed carefully sown. Much interest has been created in strip-cropping. A spirit of friendly rivalry has developed; each cooperator is trying to surpass his neighbor in carrying out his part of the program. This kind of cooperation will in time bring the desired results, of controlling erosion and rebuilding the farm lands so that farming will become a pleasure and a profession, instead of a drudgery and a job such as it now is.

* * * * *

Said a Chinese scholar educated in the United States:

"These droughts, dust storms and floods are just what you Americans are in for unless you wake up in time. I can understand them in China because the damage was done centuries ago - before people knew what deforestation and bad farming could do to a country. But I cannot understand a country like the United States allowing such a thing to happen."

EROSION

PROJECT NO. 22

CHATHAM, VA.

RADIO SCHEDULE

STATION W.R.V.A., RICHMOND, VA. - 3:00 to 3:15 P. M.

- May 2, 1935 - "Crop Rotation and Grass", by Carl N. Priode, Agronomist.
- May 9, 1935 - "Reconnaissance Survey Mapping in Virginia", by E. F. Goldston, Soil Expert.
- May 16, 1935 - "Crop Rotation and Soil Erosion Control", by J. L. Harrison, Agricultural Aide.
- May 23, 1935 - "Terracing and Soil Erosion Control", by W. G. Nunn, Ass't. Agricultural Engineer.
- May 30, 1935 - "The Operation of a Soil Erosion Service Camp", by B. F. Dyer, Superintendent, Camp SES-VA-1.

STATION W.B.T.M., DANVILLE, VA. - FARM BULLETIN HOUR 1:30 P. M.

- May 7, 1935 - "Soil Conservation and Permanent Agriculture", by Alec Yedinak, Junior Soil Expert.
- May 14, 1935 - "Farm Terracing", by H. M. Ellis, Ass't. Agricultural Engineer.
- May 21, 1935 - "Looking Ahead", by H. L. Dunton, Ass't. Erosion Specialist.
- May 28, 1935 - "Five-Year Field Plan", by Walter R. Reynolds, Agricultural Aide.

DO YOU HAVE A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF THE S.E.S. PROGRAM?

"Explain the Soil Erosion Program to me", this is a statement often made throughout the country at this time. The Soil Erosion Service Project No. 22, Chatham, Virginia, is endeavoring to supply this information to every interested person in Virginia. This information is furnished through our educational program. In the Banister River and Sandy River areas the work is explained through farmers' meetings, personal contacts, and Soil Erosion literature mailed to farmers and others. To interested persons throughout Virginia this information is furnished principally through radio broadcasts, newspaper articles and partially through our mailing list.

The old adage, "seeing is believing", is very true. Thus far anyone to clearly understand the program of the Soil Erosion Service, the actual operations being practiced, must be inspected. This is one of, if not the most important phase of the educational program. Tours of the area have been, and will be arranged for groups to see and discuss the program. Visitors are always welcome. It is only through a clear understanding of the workings of the Soil Erosion Service that the essentialness of such a program is clearly seen. Thus, if there is a question, or questions, in your mind concerning the workings of the Soil Erosion Service - discuss it with this office - if possible visit the project, and you will no doubt have a clearer understanding. Do not form an opinion based on unauthoritative information.

* * * * *

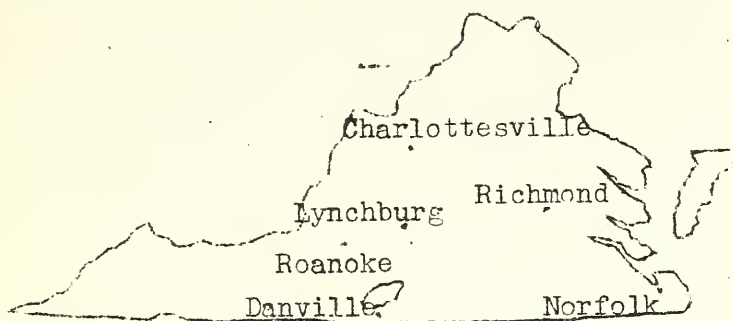
SOIL DIVISIONS IN BANISTER RIVER WATERSHED

Two main soil divisions, based on the character of rock from which they have developed, are found in the Banister River Watershed area. These are designated as "Granitic Division" and "Shale and Sandstone Division". The map on the opposite page shows the extent and location of the two divisions. Granite, granite gneiss quartz mica schist, mica schist, diorite and gabbro are the principle rocks which underlie the soils in the "Granitic Division". The soils in the "Shale and Sandstone Division" are derived from gray and red shale and sandstone. The following soil series are found in the "Granitic Division": Appling, Cecil, Davidson, Durham, Iredell, Louisa, Madison, Wilkes and Norsham. The Soil series found in the "Shale and Sandstone Division" are as follows: Grinville, Lchigh, Penn, Wadesboro and White Store. Soil series mapped in both Divisions are: Altavista, Congaree, Meadow and Wickham.

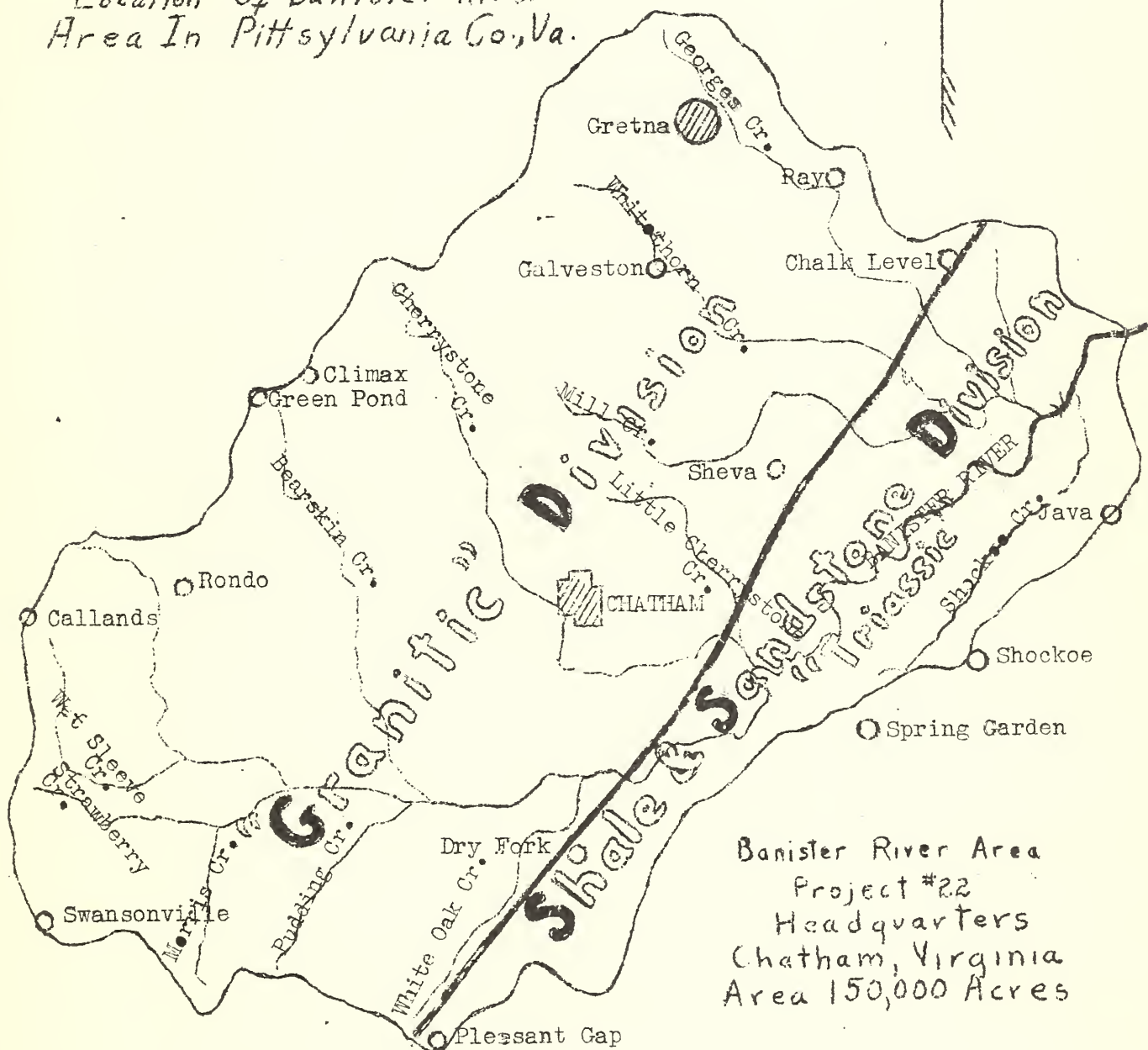
There are 31 different soil types (exclusive of gravelly and stony phases) found in the Banister River area. These 31 types fall into 18 soil series. A soil series is a group of soils having similar characteristics, that is, they resemble each other in color, structure and chemical composition. The soils in the series occur under similar conditions of relief and drainage and have the same or similar origin. A soil type is a member of a soil series separated from other types of the same series on the basis of difference in texture or size of particles.

Since soils vary in their make up, that is in their physical properties and chemical properties, they also vary in productivity, erosiveness or susceptibility to erosion, and in crop adaptability.

Each month the Soils Department makes a brief discussion in the "Banner" of one of the soil series found in this area. It is hoped that the farmers of this area will read these discussions of the various soils, try to become familiar with them, and put some of the suggested methods into practice.



Location Of Banister River
Area In Pittsylvania Co., Va.



Banister River Area
Project #22
Headquarters
Chatham, Virginia
Area 150,000 Acres

Soil Divisions In Banister River Watershed

SES-VA-1 - NEWS

Camp SES-VA-1 reports that during the month of April, the ECW Enrollees constructed 141 temporary and permanent terrace outlet structures in approximately 1121 lin. ft. of terrace outlet channels also constructed during this period. In addition to this work the enrolled men built 149 soil check dams in eroded gullies; sloped 8623 sq. yds. gully banks in preparation for the seeding and planting operations; trenched and graded 582 lin. ft. of diversion ditches around the heads of large gullies and seeded and sodded approximately 39,965 sq. yds. of terrace outlet channels.

The total amount of work completed by the Camp boys from June 21, 1934 to April 25, 1935, is as follows: (1) The construction of 7,264 temporary and permanent soil check dams and terrace outlet structures. (2) Sloped and graded by hand and with the aid of explosives 30,026 sq. yds. of vertical gully banks so that their slopes could be planted in trees, vines and grasses to check erosion. (3) Trenched and graded about 106,589 lin. ft. of terrace outlet channels and diversion ditches. (4) Seeded and sodded 70,875 sq. yds. of terrace outlet channels and completed 53 acres of tree thinning on several demonstration wood lots located along the Main Highways throughout the Area.

This enormous amount of work has benefited approximately 3,216 acres of farm land in the Banister River Area.

It is very encouraging and delightfully pleasing to the ECW Technicians as well as the staff members of the Soil Erosion Service to see so many of our Cooperators becoming more and more Erosion Control minded as the days go by. This has been particularly noticeable during the past month. While driving to and from the various projects in the area the writer has noted with extreme pleasure the many small but very destructive hillside gullies in cultivated fields which have been staring him in the face for almost a year, untouched by the farmers, have just been recently completely filled with pine brush and their banks plowed down in an effort to check gully erosion. This is a very practical, effective and economical method to use in controlling and reclaiming small gullies and the same treatment would be as equally successful on the larger gullies which are so common in the area.

Why not gather up all the brush lying around on your farm and stake it down in the bottoms of your gullies and help the Soil Erosion Service
--SAVE YOUR FARM?

SES-VA-2 - NEWS

Our new ECW Camp SES-VA-2 is now located at Old Mount Cross, on Highway 750, about eight miles from the Danville Post Office. The commanding officer is Capt. Peter van der Lugt, and the Camp Superintendent Floyd P. Trent. A complete list of the camp personnel will appear in the next issue of the Banister River Banner. The camp force will assist with soil erosion control work in the Sandy River Area.

ENGINEERING

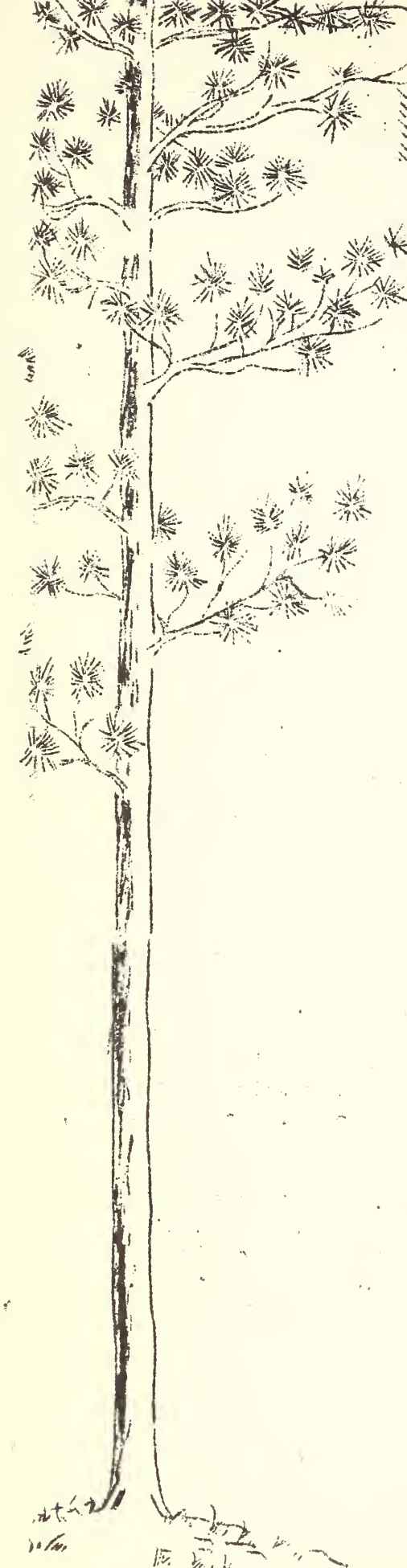
The Engineering Department of the Soil Erosion Service is disappointed in the fact that they have not been able to terrace on more of our cooperators farms than they have the past season. However, work has progressed very slowly during the winter months because of bad weather. Since April 15th we have had an opportunity to determine the maximum output of our equipment. To date we have terraced our quota for the year on 143 of the 608 farms under agreement. Spring planting being about over, our problem is to get land that is not in crop to terrace. If cooperators who have fields laying out this summer that are to be terraced, will notify this office, it will help to keep our equipment moving through the summer months.

With the limited number of tractor units we have available, we cannot get to all the farmers at one time. Cooperators who have a certain field that they wish to have terraced before planting, and it is impossible to get a tractor outfit on the job in time, should obtain a horse drawn outfit from the S.E.S. warehouse and construct temporary terraces on that field. The S.E.S. is glad to furnish the machine and a layout crew to supervise and check after construction.

Far more important than construction is the question of tilling and maintaining the terraces already constructed. Cooperators should avail themselves of all the information and advice possible to familiarize themselves with the proper method of tilling terraced fields from the standpoint of maintenance. A newly constructed terrace resembles very crude workmanship. In the process of land preparation, therefore, the farmer should follow a definite system whereby he can utilize the entire field area and at the same time give his terraces due consideration. A suggested system to follow is: (1) Fill the furrow on the back side of the terrace with a turn plow. (2) Break the hard subsoil in the water channel with a coulter. (3) Drag the entire terrace ridge and channel with a light harrow to smooth it for planting, but not enough to lower its height to any degree. It is essential that the height of the ridge be maintained at least fifteen inches above the bottom of the water channel. If you lower the ridge and plow to partially fill the channel, you have absolutely decreased the effectiveness of the terrace system to where it may be more detrimental than beneficial. This part alone practiced by some of our cooperators has rendered those terrace systems useless. Remember that the terrace systems planned by the S.E.S. are designed of a certain size and spaced such that they will protect your farm from washing. Alteration of this design means that serious damage may result which is your responsibility.

It is important that the cooperator spend his time with the terracing engineer when planning his terrace system. By doing this a better system can be planned with reference to field and farm roads, property lines, and future plans of the cooperator.

This office is glad to furnish, at any time, bulletins on terrace maintenance. If at any time cooperators have a problem that they don't understand, before moving in the wrong direction, contact this office and we will make a personal call to your farm to help you solve the problem.



During the past planting season the following trees have been planted by the Forestry Division:-

Tulip poplar	- Liriodendron tulipifera	- 75,000
Shortleaf pine	-Pinus echinata	-175,000
Loblolly pine	-Pinus taeda	-150,000
Black locust	-Robinia psuedoacacia	-130,300
White pine	-Pinus strobus	- 6,000
Box elder	-Acer negundo	- 550
Mimosa	-Albizzia julib rissin	- 1,500
Catalpa	-Catalpa speciosa	- 2,800
Ash	-Fraxinus sp.	- 525
Honey locust	-Gleditsia triacanthos	- 800
Osage orange	-Toxylon pomifera	- 34
Sapium	-Sapium sebiferum	- 7,150
Elm	-Ulmus pumila	- 60

The Forestry Division is now engaged in re-visiting the areas where these trees have been planted and checking the survivals. In planting areas where less than 75% of the original number are living, we plan to return next fall and re-plant the vacant spaces. All cooperators are urged to protect their newly planted seedlings from fire and grazing.

AGRONOMY SEEDING IN APRIL

During the month of April S.E.S. cooperators were busy with their seeding and we find that they have gotten in most of the lespedeza, hay and pasture mixtures. In a few instances, in order to secure better results, the seeding had to be carried over until late summer or fall. A considerable amount of strip cropping has already been done and more will be seeded as the terraces are completed. Most of this, however, will be narrow sod strips along terrace ridges or water channels, to act as a protection to the terraces and as an added check of soil and water run-off.

The following facts taken from our records might be of interest:

No. of farms under agreement	- - - - -	608
" " acres agreed to be seeded	- - - -	8,026
" " " actually seeded	- - - - -	6,971
" " " agreed to be strip cropped		1,982
Lbs. of seed issued to farmers	- - - - -	265,568
Tons of lime " " "	- - - - -	6,601
" " fertilizer " "	- - - - -	515

AGRONOMY WORK IN SANDY RIVER AREA

Approximately 6,000 lbs. of seed have been delivered to farmers in the Sandy River Area. With the exception of the soy beans most all of the seed have been planted. It is interesting to note that of the 6,000 lbs. of seed which has been allotted in the new area, one-half of the amount was Korean Lespedeza, while hay and pasture mixtures make up most of the remaining 3,000 lbs. This is very encouraging from the standpoint of erosion control, for it proves the willingness of the cooperators to remove from cultivation the steep and badly eroded slopes.

TOUR OF AREA PLANNED FOR FIRST PART OF JUNE

Plans are being made for a tour of the Banister River Area to be conducted about the first or second week in June. Various farms in the area will be visited and the different methods of erosion control will be studied. Some of the things that should be of particular interest are, strip-cropping, crop rotations, pasture improvement, terracing, gully control, and reforestation.

Two days will probably be taken so that those wishing to go can go on the day that suits them best. We are hoping that many of our cooperators will take the time to see the S.E.S. work in the area so that they may be better able to carry out the plan on their farms. An invitation will also be extended to business men or farmers from other sections of the state to go on this tour. Definite information will be given in the June Banner as to the date and general plans for the tour.

RAINFALL IN AREA DURING APRIL

Transient Camp	3.62 inches	P. G. Cocke's Farm(Piney Fork)	3.27 inches
Jones' Mill	2.80 "	Sheva (Forney's Shop)	3.78 "
Callands (Arnn's Store)	3.74 "	Shockoe (Fitzgerald's Store)	2.80 "
Climax (Walker's Store)	3.87 "	AVERAGE - - - - -	3.41 "

SOIL EROSION SERVICE
United States Department of Agriculture
Project No. 22 - Chatham, Va.

NATIONAL SOIL EROSION FACTS

Go over your terraces after every rain for the first year, looking for low spot or rodent damage. A little repair when needed may be the difference between success and failure of the program on your farm.

* * * * *

The agricultural lands of the United States lose twenty-one times as much plant food by erosion as by removal of crops. Which then should come first, increasing the fertility of the soil or preserving the fertility that is already there? Fortunately you don't have to choose one or the other but can do both at once.

* * * * *

MORE FOOD FOR THOUGHT

It takes organic matter to build and maintain a productive soil!
Legumes are our best source of organic matter!
Lime and fertilizer give more assurance of success with legume seedings!

* * * * *

RUNAWAY SOIL CANNOT BE RETURNED - CONTROL EROSION AND SAVE YOUR FARM.

"We have given Mother Nature an awful beating. In some places she's not quite licked yet and if we lay off for a few years she may be able to repair the damage. But the trouble with this erosion is that it is progressive, it will usually get worse after it has any sort of a start at all. We have got to work fast and hard to make up for the wasted years. It's a big job. It may take twenty, thirty, forty years before we can whip this erosion enemy. It means plugging all the washes and gullies, planting trees and grass on naked hills, taking all the sloping submarginal land out of cultivation." (from the Soil Erosion Service Thoughts, Urbana, Illinois.)

* * * * *

China is an Old Country
She once had:
Fertile soil, shady forests, clear rivers and
contented people.
Today she has:
Very little soil left, practically no forests,
muddy flooding rivers and thousands of people
dying each year from starvation and floods.

COULD SUCH A THING AS THIS HAPPEN TO THE UNITED STATES?????

* * * * *

In the United States alone, the total yearly damage of soil erosion, measured in terms of money, is estimated at \$400,000,000.00

* * * * *

The agricultural conquest of America and resultant soil destruction has been the most rapid in the history of mankind.

- - - H. H. Bennett, Director, Soil Erosion Service.